

# **Montana Newsletter**

*Montana State Library*

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# News

VOLUME 17, NO. 5

3 0864 1004 1924 4

SEPTEMBER 1988



Meeting in Hamilton on August 25 were (from left to right): Chair Mary Hudspeth, State Librarian; Debbie Schlesinger, and Commissioners Abe Abramson, Mario Thompson and Henry McFernan. Commissioners Victoria Braden and Martha Davis are seen from the back.

## COMMISSION LOOKS AT FEES, AUTOMATION CONSULTANT

The Montana State Library Commission met August 25 at the newly remodeled (as of Spring 1988) Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton.

The Commissioners approved the proposal by the Advisory Council to hire an automation consultant for the state. They approved a database searching policy for the State Library and failed to approve a searching fee policy for Kellogg funded projects. The meeting also featured a report from Ellen Newberg, Coordinator of the South Central Federation, on plans for federations' activities.

At the June meeting,

Commissioners approved all of the Advisory Council's fee recommendations for projects to be funded with 1980 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grants, except for a recommendation to hire an automation consultant for Montana libraries. At the August meeting, the Advisory Council reported they had reconsidered the recommendation, decided there was a need for a consultant and presented the recommendation a second time to the commission. The project was approved.

In keeping with a history of opposing fees for services the Commission did not approve a searching fee policy for Kellogg funded projects. The policy recommended charging for online searches requested by users and for unusually expensive searches, but

suggested the library assume charges when staff determines an online search the most efficient, most cost effective way to assist the patron.

The approved database searching policy formalizes the State Library's practice of offering database searching to other state agencies.

Commissioners heard from Ellen Newberg, representing the Federation Coordinators, on the previous day's Federation Coordinators meeting. The group discussed public relations ideas for libraries and agreed to attempt to hold legislative days for each federation in September.

It was also reported that coordinators agree with proposed changes in the library laws as recommended by the Law Revision committee. (See May MSL News) except for the changes in federation law which they feel should not be introduced in the '89 session.

Coordinators felt emphasis should be placed on statewide outreach systems and on local collection development in expending 1990 LSCA funds.

Sheila Cates, Montana State Library Coordinator of Library Development, reviewed the scope of the Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services (ICLIS) project. Lucille Gordon explained recent expansions, including literacy efforts and use of

(See "Comm." pg. 4)



SHIRLEY SCHLESINGER

## SCHLESINGER SAYS SHE'S CHALLENGED

Shirley Schlesinger, a teacher at the Flathead Valley School, has been charged with being a communist. The charge was made by the Flathead County Sheriff's Office.

## BUDGET PROBLEMS GET PRESS COVERAGE

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## INC. MEAL TO MEET IN BOZEMAN

Montana State Library Director Shirley Schlesinger has been charged with being a communist.

She faced a challenge with the fact that costs of library materials are climbing faster than the national inflation rate have left many libraries strapped, threatening imminent裁員.

For copies of the articles can be obtained from Sage Leinenring at the State Library.

## FLATHEAD STORY HOURS SPECIAL

Story hours at the Flathead Valley School were recently discontinued because of the truth that Shirley Schlesinger, a teacher at the school, is a communist. The Flathead County Sheriff's Office was asked to file the European charges. The specimen of the paper that parts to the story hours at the impaired school were to be given to the sheriff.

The charge was made by the Flathead County Sheriff's Office.

Montana State Library Director Shirley Schlesinger has been charged with being a communist.

## LIBRARIES RECEIVE GIFTS

Four Montana libraries received gifts from the estates of three library friends. The University of Montana's Mansfield Library received \$1,000; and the Missoula Public Library was bequeathed \$1,000 each from the estate of Agnes Friedman, a Missoula

(See "Gifts" pg. 4)

## LIBRARY REFERENDA POPULAR

The June 15 issue of *Library Journal* reports that library referenda are doing well throughout the country, with the disclaimer that the data collected by the author is "only a sample."

The sample, collected for the period, July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987, includes 54 library referenda. Of these, 50 were successful.

80 percent of the referenda were bond issues. The remainder were mainly distributed among sales taxes and property tax millage rate increases.

In reporting their data, library directors were asked to quantify the relative importance of various methods used in their campaigns. The most common methods were the distribution of pamphlets and fact sheets, followed by newspaper ads and articles, endorsements by community leaders, press releases, community group presentations, letters to the editor, library friends groups, and volunteers' telephone contact.



The directors were also asked what factors were most significant in the success of their campaigns. Ranked most important was the need for a new building followed by a history of quality library service, public relations efforts, activity of friends' groups, library boards, and campaign organizational efforts.

Ranked as relatively unimportant factors were the level of involvement of the business community, the appearance of a competing item on the ballot, and the existence of organized opposition.

## COLLECTION ASSESSMENT MANUAL AVAILABLE

The second edition of the Pacific Northwest Collection Assessment Manual is now available and is being mailed to libraries participating in the Pacific Northwest Database Project. The manual can be used as a beginning resource for those considering undertaking a collection assessment or as a source of general information regarding the concept's approach to collection assessment.

Significant changes from the first edition include more specific instructions on application of assessment techniques, a preliminary report on the Validation study currently underway in the northwest, and updated bibliographies and indexes for the 24 divisions of the concept.

Montana libraries not already involved in the assessment project can request a copy of the manual at no charge from Pacific NW Concepts' Database, State Library Building, Salem, OR 97310-0642.

## RSVP HELPS YOUNG USERS

The Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) Intergenerational Library Assistance Project will help public libraries in four major cities around the United States, provide help to children who use libraries after school. The pilot project has been initiated by the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) and ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency.

The program will boost the abilities of libraries to serve the young users while utilizing the skills of older volunteers. The individual libraries will work with RSVP to identify the needs of the

children and to develop programs to meet their needs. The project requires substantial financial improvement in the areas of assistance with personnel, equipment, and supplies.

## NASA OFFERS AUDIOVISUALS

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA has established a video distribution center to facilitate materials part of the NASA Educational Resource Center Network. For a small charge the center will make available educational and NASA related audiovisual materials through its video service.

Materials available include videotapes and slides and administer programs featuring current aerospace information.

School libraries interested in receiving a catalog of materials should write to School Services at NASA CORE, Library Division, JVS, 15181 Rockwood South Oberlin, OH 44074.

## WHITEHALL LIBRARIAN RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATION

Whitehall High School librarian, Al Anderson is featured in the United States Department of Education's *Check This Out! Library Program Models*.

In the "Technology to Improve Services" section of the book, Anderson is noted as "a resourceful media specialist" who worked with the school's biology teacher, Todd Breitfeld, to develop a system to project microscopic images on a television screen.

The "Videotaping through Microscopes" program solved the problem of the school's microscope shortage and proved an effective

(See "Whitehall" pg. 4)



## CBC CELEBRATES BILL OF RIGHTS

Students from 18 schools in the state will receive grants to help them host Bill of Rights Week activities.

Grants are available for \$100, \$200, or \$300.

Applications are due by March 15.



Montana State Library Commission

winner Ann Grimalcone, to illuminate the events with a full color poster. The poster costs \$12.50 and measures 23" x 35"."

For ordering information and a brochure of other CBC materials available, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: CBC Inc., 167 Irving Place, New York, New York, 10021.

## MPLA CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

Montana Plains Library Association (MPIA) is accepting nominations for awards to be presented at the next MPIA/MILTA annual conference in Billings April 1-3. Nominations are encouraged from any MPLA member.

Awards to be given include the Award of the Year, Governor Executive Award, MPIA Outstanding Service Award, the MPIA New Member Support Award, the Library of the Year Award, the Outstanding Librarian Award, and the Award of Merit.

The award of merit is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to library service. Honorees include Sweetwater County Library, the Helena Free Library, Green River Wyo. & the

(**"Comm."**, cont. from 1)

telefacsimile equipment, of the project in Hamilton. Charlotte Hennessy, Chair of the Hamilton ICLIS, reported that the Kellogg funded project was a pilot program and grant funding is available for only one more year.

(**"Whitehall"**, cont. from 3) way to spark students' interest in biology.

Check this Out features detailed instructions on how to replicate this and other school library programs that have been successful. Photocopies of highlights from the book with ordering information are available from Sallie Fenning at the State Library, 1415 E. 6th, Helena, 444-5753.

(**"Gifts"**, cont. from 2)

In July, Bernice Boone left Helena's Lewis & Clark Library a trust fund which will bring the library about \$24,000 a year. Boone, who died on February 20 at the age of 86,

The Livingston Public Library received \$6,000 from the estate of Mrs. Zella Carr Poorman, a longtime Livingston library supporter, who died last November.

# Friends of the Library

## Montana State Library

Montana State Library  
Montana Department of  
Commerce, P.O. Box 202500  
Helena, MT 59620-2500

Montana State  
Library  
Montana  
Department  
of Commerce

## MONTANA STATE LIBRARY NEWS

### Calendar of Events 1988

#### OCTOBER

- 1 Sagebrush Federation Reference Workshop - Miles City  
4 - 7 Pacific Northwest Chapter/Medical Library Association-  
Bozeman  
11 Federation Coordinators Meeting - Billings  
13 TIGER/GIS Workshop - Helena  
14 Tamarack Federation Reference Workshop - Pablo  
15 - 18 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) -  
North Carolina  
18 Trustee Workshop - Conrad  
19 - 22 Mountain Plains Library Association Conference - Omaha  
21 - 22 School Library Media Division Retreat - Feather Pipe  
Ranch - Helena  
21 - 22 Public Library Retreat - Lewis & Clark Library - Helena  
24 Collection Development Committee - Helena  
28 - 29 Public Library Retreat - Miles Community College-  
Miles City

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 Advisory Council Meeting - Helena  
9 Technology Committee Meeting - Helena

#### DECEMBER

- 13 Federation Coordinators Meeting - Helena  
14 Commission - Helena